

STATEMENT BY KATHERINE H. STEVENSON, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, CULTURAL RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP AND PARTNERSHIP, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS AND PUBLIC LANDS, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES, CONCERNING H.R. 60, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO CASA MALPAIS NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK IN SPRINGERVILLE, ARIZONA.

MAY 20, 1997

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you to discuss the preservation and interpretation of the Casa Malpais National Historic Landmark in Springerville, Arizona.

We recommend against enactment of H.R. 60 because we believe existing programs and authority can meet the needs outlined by this legislation more effectively.

H. R. 60 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance to the City of Springerville for the preservation and interpretation of the Casa Malpais National Historic Landmark, which it recently acquired. One of the largest Mogollon culture archeological sites, Casa Malpais contains a major Pueblo, Great Kiva, associated fortifications, and cultural landscape. The site is also of significance as an ancestral site of the Zuni and Hopi. The Department of the Interior recognized the importance of this resource when it conferred the designation as a national historic landmark on Casa Malpais in 1965.

The recent acquisition of this site by the town of Springerville is truly an important effort, and we commend the town for its interest in preserving and interpreting this resource for the benefit of the American public. It was this very type of partnership the Congress wanted to encourage with the enactment of The Historic Sites Act of 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.) and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). Under this authority, the National Park Service can provide technical preservation planning guidance, Historic Preservation Fund grants, and other technical assistance, especially to National Historic Landmarks. Also, under the provisions of these acts, the Service is authorized to cooperate with institutions that own historic properties. In fiscal year 1998, the President's budget requests \$45.6 million for historic preservation grants and

technical assistance through these existing programs.

Because the intent of H.R. 60 is to provide technical assistance, we already have authority and a set of processes and procedures in place to meet its needs. Further, we believe it is most appropriate for the town of Springerville to make its request using these procedures and to compete with other properties of similar significance.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my remarks. I would be pleased to answer any questions you or members of the committee may have.